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Pollak

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[54] **COMPARTMENTALIZED TRASH CONTAINER**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **220/503;** 220/909; 220/23.83

[58] **Field of Search** 220/17, 20, 23.83

[56] **References Cited**

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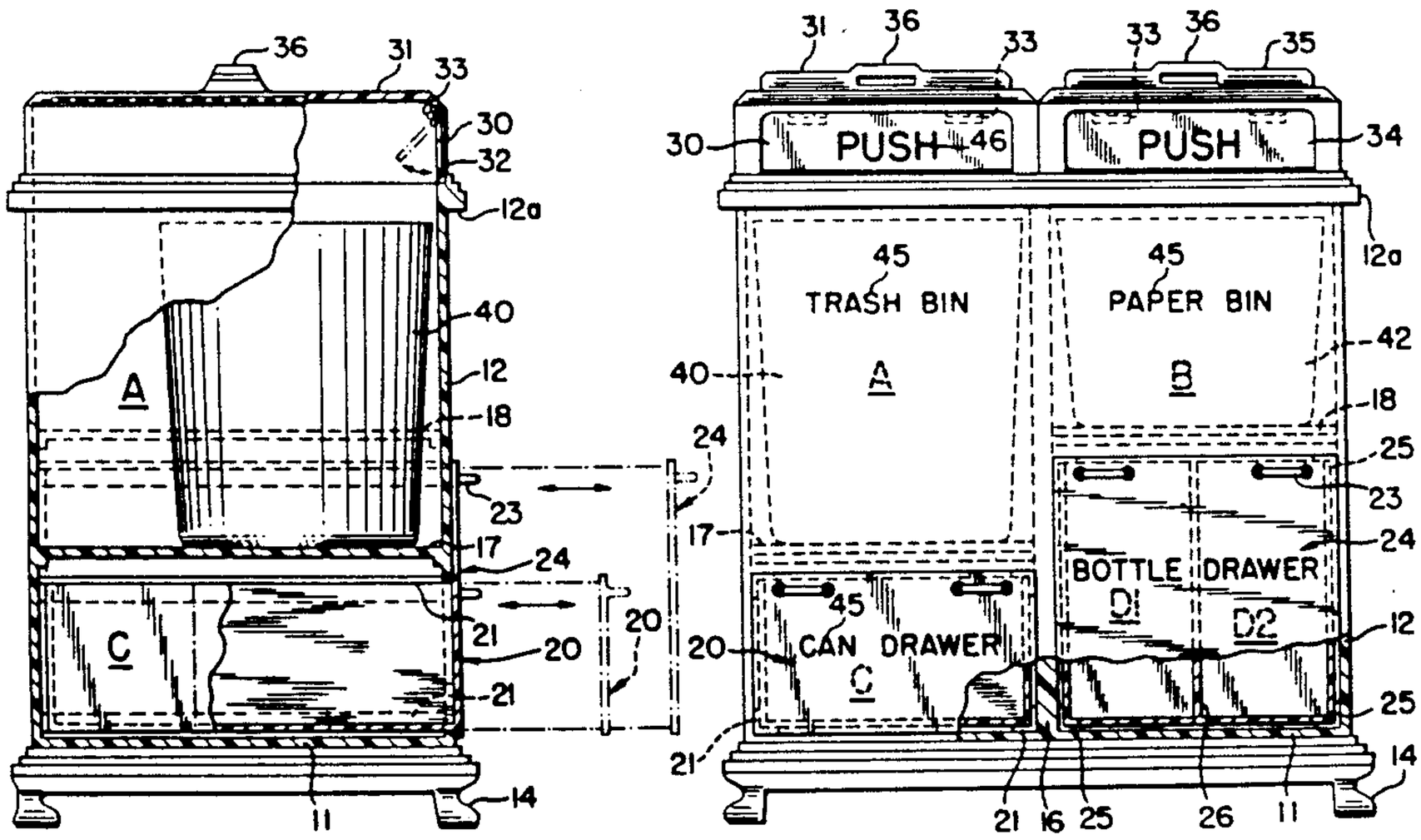
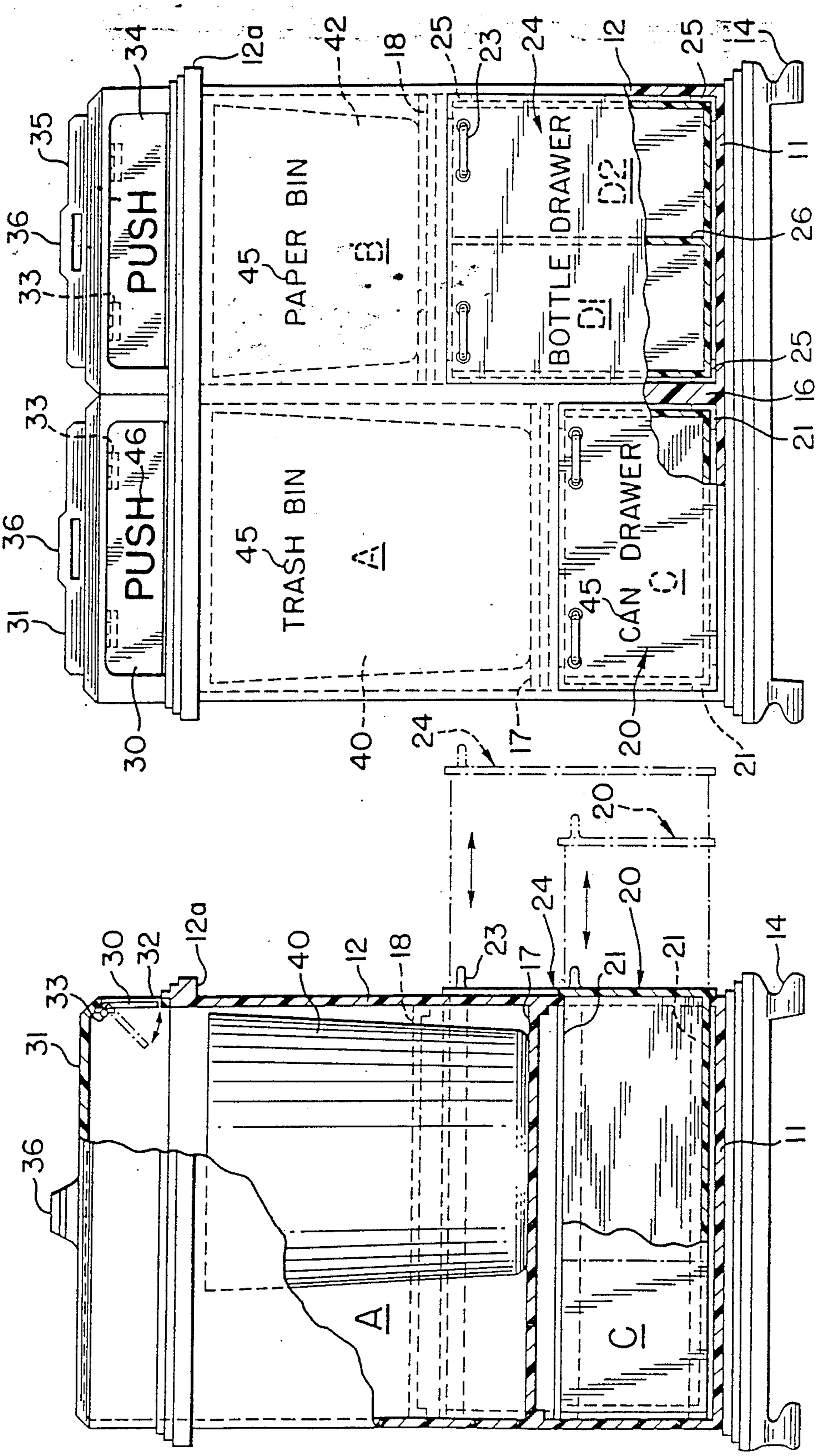
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A compartmentalized trash container having separate compartments for the storing of different kinds of recyclable and non-recyclable trash. The compartmentalized trash container having compartments accessable by slidable draws to permit the introduction and removal of different kinds of trash, and having other compartments accessible through pivotable doors to permit the introduction of other kinds of trash. The container interior being divided into a plurality of separate compartments including at least one upper compartment and at least one lower compartment, each compartment being dimensioned to receive and store therein a preselected kind of trash. Each compartment being individually accessable independently of the others to enable trash to be transferred into and out of the compartment.

17 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet




34
12a
42
18
25
23
24
12
25
14
35
36
33
PUSH
45
PAPER BIN
B1
BOTTLE DRAWER
D1
D2
11
26
25
16
21
FIG. 1
33
36
31
PUSH
46
45
TRASH BIN
A1
45
CAN DRAWER
C1
30
40
24
17
20
21
20
30
32
12a
40
12
18
23
24
20
21
21
14
33
31
36
A1
C1
11
FIG. 2

COMPARTMENTALIZED TRASH CONTAINER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to trash containers, and more particularly to compartmentalized trash containers having individual compartments for storing different kinds of recyclable and non-recyclable trash.

The problem of trash disposal is currently of great concern throughout the nation. While it had been common practice to dispose of trash in land and ocean dump sites, this practice has caused untold environmental pollution and has been recently severely curtailed. To lessen the burden of trash disposal, many states and local municipalities have regulations requiring the recycling of trash. Trash recycling is beneficial not only from the standpoint of reducing environmental pollution, but also from the standpoint of energy conservation. Many kinds of trash, for example, aluminum cans, can be recycled and formed into new products at a fraction of the energy required to form the products from raw materials.

To implement trash recycling, the trash must first be separated. Many states and municipalities have laws requiring the separation of trash, and these laws typically require the separation of recyclable glass, metal and paper articles from other non-recyclable kinds of trash. Separating trash for recycling is especially troublesome for residents of homes, apartments and other dwellings due to the shortage of space for sorting, separating and storing different kinds of trash.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One object of the present invention is to solve the aforementioned problems by providing a compartmentalized trash container having separate compartments for storing different kinds of recyclable and non-recyclable trash.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a compartmentalized trash container which is portable, compact and suitable for use in homes, apartments and other dwellings.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a compartmentalized trash container which is relatively simple and inexpensive to manufacture and which is of rugged, durable construction.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a compartmentalized trash container having compartments accessible by slidable drawers to permit the introduction and removal of different kinds of trash, and having other compartments accessible through pivotable doors to permit the introduction of other kinds of trash.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a compartmentalized trash container having individual compartments for storing different kinds of trash and having indicia for identifying the kind of trash to be stored in each compartment.

These and other objects of the invention are achieved by a container whose interior is divided into a plurality of separate compartments including at least one upper compartment and at least one lower compartment, each compartment being dimensioned to receive and store therein a preselected kind of trash. Each compartment is individually accessible independently of the others to enable trash to be transferred into and out of the compartments.

In a preferred form, the container has two upper compartments and two lower compartments, the upper compartments being open at their upper ends. The two lower compartments are accessible through slidable drawers which are dimensioned to store therein different kinds of trash, for example, metal articles in one drawer and glass articles in the other. The two open upper compartments contain removable receptacles for storing different kinds of trash, for example, one for storing paper articles and the other for storing non-recyclable trash. The upper compartments are each covered by a removable lid containing a pivotable door so that trash can be inserted into the receptacles through the pivotable doors and the receptacles can be removed from the upper compartments through the open ends thereof upon removal of the lids.

The foregoing as well as other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon a reading of the following detailed description of the invention when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a front elevational view, partly in section, showing a compartmentalized trash container constructed according to the principles of the present invention; and

FIG. **2** is a side elevational view, partly in section, of the compartmentalized trash container shown in FIG. **1**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

One embodiment of a compartmentalized trash container according to the present invention is shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**. The compartmentalized trash container comprises a container **10** having a bottom wall **11** and a side wall **12**. The container **10** may have any desired configuration and may be formed of any suitable material, such as plastic, sheet metal, composition board, cardboard or combinations of these materials. In the preferred form, the container **10** is molded from thermoplastic material. To enhance its aesthetic appearance, the container **10** may be provided at its base with a set of ornamental feet **14**. The container **10** may be formed of any color and, if desired, may be covered, in whole or in part, with a decorative covering, such as paper or vinyl.

The container **10** is provided with means for dividing the interior thereof into a plurality of separate compartments A, B, C and D. In a preferred form, the dividing means comprises an upstanding partition member **16** which divides the container into lefthand and righthand sections, and lateral partition members **17,18** which divide each section into upper and lower compartments. As shown in FIG. **1**, the lateral partition member **17** divides the left container section into an upper compartment A and a lower compartment C, and the lateral partition member **18** divides the right container section into an upper compartment B and a lower compartment D. The partition members **16,17,18** are integrally molded with the bottom and side walls **11,12** and form a one-piece integral unit. As described hereinafter, the plural compartments A,B,C,D are of different sizes and each is dimensioned to accommodate a particular kind of trash.

The container **10** is provided with means for individually accessing each of the compartments A,B,C,D independently of the others to enable trash to be transferred into and out of the respective compartments. In a preferred form, the means for individually accessing the compartments comprises a pair of slidable drawers **20,24**, and a pair of pivotable doors **30,34** pivotably mounted on removable lids **31,35**.

The slidable drawer **20** is slidably mounted on slideways **21** extending along the length of the lower compartment C. Similarly, the slidable drawer **24** is slidably mounted on slideways **25** extending lengthwise along the lower compartment D. The slideways **21,25** comprise right-angled members having diverging legs which define slideways for guiding the sliding movement of the drawers. The slideways **21,25** are preferably integrally molded with the bottom and sidewalls **11,12** and the partition members **16,17,18**. Alternatively, the slideways may be formed as channel members which coact with rollers on the drawers. The drawers **20,24** slidably extend through openings in the front portion of the side wall **12** and abut with the side wall front portion when in the fully closed position, as shown by solid lines in FIG. **2**. The drawers are shown in the open position by dot-dash lines in FIG. **2**. The drawers **20,24** are likewise preferably molded from plastic and have a box-like shape. The drawers are open at their upper ends to permit trash to be placed therein and removed therefrom. Each drawer is equipped with a pair of handles **23** to permit manual opening and closing of the drawers.

The drawer **20** comprises a can drawer and is dimensioned to receive and store therein recyclable metal cans, such as aluminum soda cans, beer cans, soup cans and the like. The drawer **24** comprises a glass drawer and is dimensioned to receive and store therein recyclable glass articles such as soda bottles, beer bottles, wine bottles and the like. In view of the need of separating colored and clear glass articles, the glass drawer **24** is divided by a partition **26** into two sections D**1**,D**2**, one section being for colored glass articles and the other section being for clear glass articles. The glass drawer **24** is preferably of larger size than the can drawer **20** to accommodate the larger size glass articles, such as wine bottles.

The two upper compartments A,B have open upper ends defined by a peripheral flange **12***a* of the sidewall **12**. The inner rim of the flange **12***a* is recessed to removably receive therein, as shown in FIG. **2**, the lower edge of the lids **31,35**. In this manner, the lids are removably attached to the sidewall **12**. Each lid is provided with an opening **32**, and the pivotable doors **30,34** are pivotably mounted by hinges **33** so as to normally hang downwardly and cover the lid openings **30**. The lids **31,35** may be provided with handles **36** to facilitate manual removal and replacement of the lids.

The upper compartment A comprises a trash bin and contains therein a removable receptacle **40** which sits on the lateral partition member **17**. The receptacle **40** is configured and dimensioned to be inserted into and withdrawn out of the open upper end of the trash bin A when the lid **31** is removed. The trash bin A is intended to receive non-recyclable trash, such as food wastes and the like. The non-recyclable trash is introduced into the receptacle **40** through the pivotable door **30** which pivots freely inwardly as shown in FIG. **2**. To remove the receptacle **40**, the lid **31** is removed by manually gripping the handle **36** and, after removal of the lid **31**, the receptacle **40** is lifted out of the trash bin A, emptied, and then returned to the trash bin A after which the lid **31** is replaced.

The upper compartment B comprises a paper bin, and a receptacle **42** is removably disposed in the paper bin B and sits on the lateral partition member **18**. The receptacle **42** is configured and dimensioned to receive and store therein recyclable paper articles, such as newspapers, magazines and the like. The lid **35** has the same construction as the lid **31**. To introduce paper articles into the paper bin B, the paper articles are introduced through the pivotable door **34** and dropped into the paper bin B. To remove the receptacle **42**, the lid **35** is removed by manually gripping the handle **36** following which the receptacle **42** is lifted out of the open upper end of the paper bin B. After the paper articles are removed from the receptacle **42**, the receptacle is placed back in the paper bin B following which the lid **35** is replaced.

To enable the user to readily determine the particular kind of trash to be placed in each different compartment, the outer side wall **12** of the container **10** is provided with visual indicia **45**. The indicia **45** may be in the form of relief lettering molded in the side wall **12** of the container, or may be in the form of printed labels or decals. In the disclosed embodiment, the compartments A,B,C,D bear the identifying indicia "TRASH BIN", "PAPER BIN", "CAN DRAWER" and "BOTTLE DRAWER", respectively. The pivotable doors **30,34** are also provided with the indicia "PUSH". Other indicia may, of course, be used depending on the intended kinds of trash to be stored in the different compartments.

The present invention has been described with reference to one particular embodiment thereof, and obvious variations and modifications will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. By way of example, the particular kinds of trash to be stored in the different compartments may vary. One compartment may be used to store plastic trash instead of, or in addition to, the kinds of trash described hereinabove. The present invention is intended to cover all such obvious variations and modifications which fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A compartmentalized trash container comprising: a container having bottom and side walls; means dividing the interior of the container into a plurality of separate compartments including at least one upper compartment and at least one lower compartment, each compartment being dimensioned to receive and store therein a preselected kind of trash; and means for individually accessing each of the compartments independently of the others to enable trash to be transferred into and out the compartments, the means for individually accessing the compartments including at least one slidable drawer slidably mounted on slideways in one upper compartment, and at least one pivotable door pivotably mounted on the container adjacent one lower compartment.

2. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim **1**; wherein the means dividing the container comprises means dividing the container into two upper compartment and two lower compartments; and the means for individually accessing the compartments comprises a pair of slidable drawers each slidably mounted on slideways in a respective one of the lower compartments, and a pair of pivotable doors each pivot-

ably mounted on the container adjacent a respective one of the upper compartments.

3. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 5; wherein the two drawers are of different size.

4. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 3; wherein the smaller drawer comprises a can drawer dimensioned to receive recyclable metal cans.

5. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 3; wherein the larger drawer comprises a glass drawer dimensioned to receive recyclable glass articles.

6. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 5; wherein the glass drawer contains therein a partition dividing the glass drawer into two sections, one section being for colored glass articles and the other section being for clear glass articles.

7. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 2; wherein the two upper compartments are of different size.

8. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 7; wherein the smaller upper compartment comprises a paper bin dimensioned to receive a stack of recyclable paper articles.

9. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 8; wherein the smaller upper compartment which defines the paper bin has an open upper end; and the means for accessing the smaller upper compartment comprises a removable lid removably attached to the upper end of the smaller upper compartment, the pivotable door for the smaller upper compartment being pivotably mounted on the lid so that recyclable paper articles may be introduced into the paper bin through the pivotable door and removed from the paper bin through the open upper end thereof upon removal of the lid.

10. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 9; including a receptacle removably disposed within the paper bin for storing therein paper articles, the receptacle being dimensioned to be inserted into and withdrawn out of the open upper end of the paper bin upon removal of the lid.

11. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 9; wherein the larger upper compartment comprises a trash bin dimensioned to receive non-recyclable trash.

12. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 11; wherein the larger upper compartment which defines the paper bin has an open upper end; and the means for accessing the larger upper compartment comprises a removable lid removably attached to the upper end of the larger upper compartment, the pivotable door for the larger upper compartment being pivotably mounted on the lid so that non-recyclable trash may be introduced into the trash bin through the pivotable door and removed from the trash bin through the open upper end thereof upon removal of the lid.

13. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 12; including a receptacle removably disposed within the trash bin for storing therein non-recyclable trash, the receptable being dimensioned to be inserted into and withdrawn out of the open upper end of the trash bin upon removal of the lid.

14. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 7; wherein the larger upper compartment comprises a trash bin dimensioned to receive non-recyclable trash.

15. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 14; wherein the larger upper compartment which defines the trash bin has an open upper end; and the means for accessing the larger upper compartment comprises a removable lid removably attached to the upper end of the larger upper compartment, the pivotable door for the larger upper compartment being pivotably mounted on the lid so that non-recyclable trash may be introduced into the trash bin through the pivotable door and removed from the trash bin through the open upper end thereof upon removal of the lid.

16. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 15; including a receptacle removably disposed within the trash bin for storing therein non-recyclable trash, the receptable being dimensioned to be inserted into and withdrawn out of the open upper end of the trash bin upon removal of the lid.

17. A compartmentalized trash container according to claim 1; including indicia on the outer side wall of the container for identifying the kind of trash to be placed in each of the compartments.

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